

Welcome to the NEW Developments!

If you're receiving Developments for the first time, Welcome! If you're used to seeing Developments in its former magazine format, Welcome!

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has redesigned Developments to make it more user-friendly while still providing you the news you need about DWD programs and services.

We'd love to hear what you think about our new format. Please send your thoughts on the new format, as well as ideas for future Developments topics, to dwieland@dwd.state.in.us.

Employment Trends

December Unemployment Stats

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 4.7 percent. This is one percentage point below the national rate of 5.7 percent.

More than 2.9 million Hoosiers were employed during December.

Indiana's December unemployment rate was lower than Illinois, 6.3 percent; Michigan, 5.6 percent; Ohio, 5.0 percent; and Kentucky at 5.1 percent.

January Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 1-4-03	90,176
Week of 1-11-03	103,899
Week of 1-18-03	95,359
Week of 1-25-03	86,817

JOBS Facts

Job Opportunities and Business Services

The goal of this statewide initiative is to place Hoosier workers in high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations. The two-year plan for JOBS includes workforce recruitment, worker assessment & job profiling, and job placement. For more information about JOBS visit www.in.gov/about/energize.

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Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

Breaking News

DWD Commissioner to Accept PERF Director Title

After six years of leading the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Commissioner Craig Hartzler will resign his position effective Feb. 10 to take on the role of leading the \$10 billion Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund.

"While I look forward to the new opportunity that lies ahead of me, I will miss working with the DWD staff around the state to meet the needs of Hoosier employers and employees," Hartzler said.

Hartzler will be replaced by Alan Degner, who served as Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's chief of staff from July 2001 through December 2002, when he left to become president of the Indiana Economic Development Council.

Indiana Receives Federal Grant for FaithWorks Indiana Initiative

The Department of Workforce Development will begin statewide outreach to community-based and faith-based organizations through FaithWorks Indiana thanks to a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

To kick off the outreach, DWD will host a series of statewide workshops to help organizations determine how they can best partner with the Indiana WorkOne system to enhance services that help youth, unemployed, underemployed and those preparing to enter the workforce. Workshops are scheduled to begin early this year.

Other efforts include initiatives by six state Workforce Investment Boards that received regional grants from the DWD. Participating WIBs include The Center for Workforce Innovations in Northwest Indiana, Circle Seven in Central Indiana, Marion County (IPIC), North Central Indiana, Northeast Indiana and Southern Seven in southeast Indiana.

Indiana was one of 12 states to receive the U.S. Department of Labor grant last July to link faith-based and community-based community organizations to families in need. For more information, visit www.workforce.in.gov/faithworks.

Unemployed Hoosiers Receive Extended Unemployment Benefits

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is assisting out-of-work Hoosiers whose unemployment benefits were cut off in late December due to lack of action from the federal government by ensuring that they receive the full number of weeks for which they qualified. In addition, unemployed Hoosiers who exhaust their regular benefits between Dec. 28, 2002, and May 31, 2003, are eligible for up to 13 weeks of additional benefits.

To qualify, claimants must have filed for and received approval for benefits under normal Indiana unemployment insurance laws. More than 12,400 Hoosiers have been affected by benefit cut offs. Approximately 20,000 Indiana workers could be affected as they exhaust their regular unemployment benefits.

For more information, Hoosiers can call their local WorkOne office or 1-888-WorkOne, or visit www.workforce.IN.gov.